GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1426
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2002
FAST BY DISABLED PERSONS
M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item `Disabled Observe Fast against Government Apathy` as appeared in the Hindu dated the February 8, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Disabled Rights Group have submitted several demands to the Prime Minister on their problems;

(c) if so, the details of the demands made by them; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The news item referred to has been perused. According to the press report, demands have been sent to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. The Ministry has received copy of a letter sent by the Disabled Rights Group to the Home Minister.

(c) The demands cover a wide range of issues such as raising of limit of income tax exemption for disabled, abolition of tax on aids & appliances for disabled people, private sector incentives to promote employment, shifting of office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD) from NOIDA to Delhi, sacking of CCD, all facilities/concessions given to persons with orthopedic, visual and hearing disabled to be extended to mentally impaired, one per cent reservation for people with mental and/or developmental disabilities in group C&D posts, standardization of Indian Sign Language, immediate revision of the `Revised List` (June, 2001) of identified posts for persons with disabilities, abolishing Office of CCD and constituting a Disability Commission, passage of amendment to Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, shifting `Special Education` from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to Ministry of Human Resource Development and passage of an Ordinance to ensure barrier free design and access features in all future construction.

(d) The demands relating to legislative, financial and administrative aspects involve consideration by Ministries/Departments of Government of India and the State Governments.